



JAMES A. NOYES, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"Enriching Lives"

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November 19, 2003

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: James A. Noyes
Director of Public Works

TRAFFIC SIGNAL CONSTRUCTION BOARD MOTION OF OCTOBER 21, 2003, SYNOPSIS 44A

In response to the attached motion by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, the following is a report and recommendations surrounding the installation of traffic signals in new developments.

Our current practice is to require developers to construct traffic signals when their project alone will generate traffic volumes that meet nationally established traffic warrants. When a single developer's project has created the need for a traffic signal, we generally require that developer to design and construct the traffic signal. The private sector can install traffic signals in a more timely manner than Public Works since they are not bound by Public Contracting Code provisions.

This is an area where we have determined that the County can be more efficient. When multiple developers have projects that create a cumulative need for a traffic signal, we require each developer to pay their pro-rata share of the traffic signal cost. We assume the responsibility to design and construct the traffic signal. This ensures the traffic signal is not energized until actual traffic conditions meet nationally established traffic warrant criteria.

To expedite traffic signal installation and consistent with the intent of forming a public/private partnership, we recommend the following changes to our current practices and procedures for designing and constructing traffic signals that are associated with cumulative traffic impacts for new development:

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- When cumulative traffic impacts exist that require the need for a traffic signal, we will condition the developer to design the traffic signal and receive approval of the design plans from us prior to recordation of the final map.
- We will require the developer to install the underground conduit and foundation for the traffic signal. Public Works will install the signal heads, poles, controller, and activate the signals only after actual traffic conditions approach or meet nationally established traffic warrant criteria.

By improving our efficiency and utilizing the private sector to design the traffic signals and install the underground portions at the time roads are constructed, Public Works will be able to immediately install the traffic signals when they are warranted. This will eliminate the 18-month time period that the Public Works normally takes to install new traffic signals.

For locations that we are currently responsible for performing the design and construction of a traffic signal, we will continue to streamline our processes to ensure efficient and timely installation of all traffic signals.

If you have any questions, please call me or your staff may contact Bill Winter of our Traffic and Lighting Division at (626) 300-4700.

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Attach.

cc: Executive Office



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

—> Director of Public Works

At its meeting held October 21, 2003, the Board took the following action:

44-A

Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

"The Traffic and Lighting Division of the Department of Public Works is responsible for working with developers to ensure that traffic signals are installed as new development occurs. In certain cases the County installs the signals, and in other cases the signals are installed by the developer and accepted by Public Works. For reasons that are not entirely clear, it appears that traffic signals are constructed quicker when they are installed by a developer than when they are installed by the Department of Public Works.

"Given the potential impacts upon public safety, it is critical that traffic signals be installed as soon as they are warranted. A recent accident in the Fifth District involving a young boy on a bicycle and a vehicle demonstrates the importance of this issue."

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, seconded by Supervisor Molina, unanimously carried, the Director of Public Works was instructed to investigate the issues surrounding the installation of traffic signals in new developments where in certain cases the County installs the signals and in other cases they are installed by the developer and accepted by the Department of Public Works; and report back to the Board within 30 days with recommendations on how this process can be made more timely and efficient.

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Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel